wherein said OP/BMP renal therapeutic agent induces chondrogenesis in an *in vivo* ectopic bone assay; and wherein said therapeutically effective amount causes a clinically significant improvement in a standard marker of renal function in said mammal; and wherein said mammal is afflicted with a condition selected from the group consisting of chronic diabetic nephropathy, diabetic glomerulopathy, diabetic renal hypertrophy, hypertensive nephrosclerosis, hypertensive glomerulosclerosis, chronic glomerulonephritis, hereditary nephritis, renal dysplasia, glomerular hypertrophy, tubular hypertrophy, glomerulosclerosis, and tubulointerstitial sclerosis.

2. (Twice Amended) A method of treatment to delay the need for, or reduce the frequency of, chronic dialysis treatments in a mammal in, or at risk of, chronic renal failure comprising

administering to said [a] mammal a therapeutically effective amount of an OP/BMP renal therapeutic agent[, wherein said OP/BMP renal therapeutic agent comprises] comprising a dimeric protein having an amino acid sequence having at least 70% amino acid sequence homology with the C-terminal seven-cysteine skeleton of human OP-1, amino acids 330-431 of SEQ ID NO:1;

wherein said OP/BMP renal therapeutic agent induces chondrogenesis in an *in vivo* ectopic bone assay; and wherein said therapeutically effective amount causes a clinically significant improvement in a standard marker of renal function in said mammal; and wherein said mammal is afflicted with a condition selected from the group consisting of chronic diabetic nephropathy, diabetic glomerulopathy, diabetic renal hypertrophy, hypertensive nephrosclerosis, hypertensive glomerulosclerosis, chronic glomerulonephritis, hereditary nephritis, renal dysplasia, glomerular hypertrophy, tubular hypertrophy, glomerulosclerosis, and tubulointerstitial sclerosis.

3. (Twice Amended) A method as in claim 1 wherein said renal therapeutic agent comprises a polypeptide comprising at least a C-terminal seven cysteine domain of a protein selected from the group consisting of a pro form, a mature form, and a soluble form of a polypeptide selected from the group consisting of OP-1, OP-2, OP-3, BMP2, BMP3,

BMP4, BMP5, BMP6, BMP8, [and] BMP9, GDF-5, GDF-6, GDF-7, DPP, Vg1, Vgr-1, 60A, GDF-1, GDF-3, GDF-5, GDF-6, GDF-7, BMP10, BMP11, BMP13, BMP15, UNIVIN, NODAL, SCREW, ADMP, and NEURAL.

4. (Twice Amended) A method as in claim 3 wherein said renal therapeutic agent comprises a polypeptide consisting of at least a C-terminal seven cysteine domain of a protein selected from a group consisting of a pro form, a mature form, and a soluble form of human OP-1.

12. (Amended) A method as in claim 1 wherein said renal therapeutic agent is an osteogenic or bone morphogenic protein selected from the group consisting of: [human osteogenic proteins and human bone morphogenic proteins] OP-1, OP-2, OP-3, BMP2, BMP3, BMP4, BMP5, BMP6, BMP8, BMP9, GDF-5, GDF-6, GDF-7, DPP, Vg1, Vgr-1, 60A, GDF-1, GDF-3, GDF-5, GDF-6, GDF-7, BMP10, BMP11, BMP13, BMP15, UNIVIN, NODAL, SCREW, ADMP, and NEURAL.

REMARKS

Upon entry of the foregoing amendments, claims 1-4, 6-10, 12, 15-17, 24, 28, and 32 are pending in the present application.

Applicants have amended claims 1 and 2 to incorporate limitations of claims 13 and 14. Applicants have also amended claims 3 and 4 to more clearly define that the polypeptides of the present invention consist of at least the C-terminal ***seven*** cysteine domain. Support for this amendment can be found at pp. 5-6; pg. 8, lines 4-16; pp. 13-15; and pg. 16, lines 1-15. Finally, Applicants have amended claims 3 and 12 to recite the specific osteogenic proteins and bone morphogenic proteins known in the art at the time of filing of the present patent application. Support for this amendment is found at pg. 14, line 22 through pg. 15, line 3 and pg. 16, lines 1-21. No new matter has been added by the present amendments.